

## EU DECLARATIONS

In January 2022, the EU's Animal Health Regulation introduced a new requirement for farms producing animals, products of animal origin, or germinal products for export to the EU will be subject to "regular veterinary visits". These changes in legislation will be in place from 13th December 2023 and will require all producers selling livestock for slaughter to have had an annual farm veterinary visit to allow their animals, and/or part of any animal, to be exported out of the UK. The frequency of vet visits should be at least annual.



For products to be exported to the EU, farms must have had, in the 12 months leading up to 13th December, one of the following:

- a veterinary visit
- an Animal Health and Welfare Pathway veterinary visit (England only)

OR

- be part of a recognised assurance scheme

Without the evidence of a regular vet visit, the slaughterhouse OV will not be able to sign a Support Health Attestation facilitating products to be exported to the EU, and as markets cannot be sure where the livestock are going to end up, it is likely that all animals entering a market will need to be covered by a declaration.

So, producers who are not part of a recognised assurance scheme will need to have an annual veterinary visit, to enable us to sign the declaration about the health status of the animals and the biosecurity practices on the unit. We will need to see all species on the farm for which the declaration will apply, and assess all the sites on the holding, but it is only the last holding of residence which needs a vet visit.

We have decided that we will combine the EU declaration visits with the Medicine Prescribing visits that we have to carry out to comply with the RCVS Prescribing Rules, which have recently been changed. The cost of these visits will be the visit fee, and 1-hour Herd Health planning time, which is approximately £96.41 + VAT. If we can group several farms together in an area there will be a 50% discount on the visit.

There are a few additional points; for farms which have already had a Medicines Visit this year, there will be a reduced fee for the additional work needed to sign the declaration. If you are Farm Assured, but sell species not covered by the scheme, we will need to come and see these. All Farm Assurance/Health planning visits will need to take place on farm, unless we are already on the farm on a regular basis e.g. routine fertility visits.

**IF YOU THINK YOU WILL NEED ONE OF THESE VISITS, PLEASE CALL US ASAP SO THAT WE CAN MAKE YOU AN APPOINTMENT IN TIME FOR YOU TO SELL STOCK AFTER 13th DECEMBER.**

## \* \* \* STAFF NEWS \* \* \*

This month sees Natasha Davey joining us. Natasha has been working in Devon as an ATT, and will be joining our TB testing team in the same role. Although not from a farming family, she has always milked and had a huge interest in farming from a young age. Outside of work, Natasha enjoys competing in dressage and playing rugby.

# SAFE AND EFFECTIVE LIVESTOCK VACCINATION

Livestock keepers will often use vaccines to keep their animals healthy and productive, but safe and clean injection techniques are essential to get the best out of the vaccines and keep the animals free from harm. Poor injection practice can cause tissue reactions and abscessation which leads to ill health, carcass damage and devaluation.

When considering using a vaccine, farmers need to think about the following:

1. **Vaccine storage:** Vaccines should be stored in the fridge between 2°C and 8°C and taken straight home from the supplier, using a cool pack in hot weather. Heat will rapidly denature most vaccines and make them ineffective. Once the pack has been opened most vaccines have to be used within a few hours. The pack insert will advise how long the product is stable for.
2. **Number of animals to vaccinate:** Most vaccines will be sold in various pack sizes to prevent wastage and minimize cost per dose. When vaccinating large groups with a vaccinators gun some animals may be missed and require an extra dose, so be sure to factor this in when purchasing.
3. **Vaccination equipment:** Ensure that the vaccinators gun is clean and delivering accurate doses and that the needles are of the correct length for the route of injection and animals involved.
4. **Needles:** Overused needles become blunt and damaged and using them will lead to tissue damage and bruising. Dirty needles will introduce bacteria into the injection site resulting in infection and abscesses. In general, the needle should be changed at least every 10 animals or sooner if contamination occurs.
5. **Preparation of the vaccine:** Some vaccines come with a dry powder which needs to be mixed with the liquid portion just before use. Others require gentle mixing or warming to body temperature prior to administration. Poorly mixed vaccines will not provide the desired immunity and could cause local reactions.
6. **Dose and route of vaccination:** Using the right route of vaccination is essential. For example, intranasal vaccines induce a local immunity in the respiratory tract and will not work if given by another route. Oil-based vaccines such as Footvax would cause severe inflammation if given into the muscle. In addition, follow up doses should be given as recommended on the data sheet to maximize the protection.
7. **Health status:** Sick, stressed and poorly nourished animals are unlikely to be able to mount a good immune response to a vaccine, so it is usually preferable to vaccinate them prior to a stressful event such as weaning, housing or sale. Some vaccines cannot be used in pregnant animals.
8. **Cleanliness of livestock:** Wet and dirty animals carry a lot of bacteria on the skin which can be carried into the animal with the vaccinators needle and lead to injection site reactions.
9. **Careful handling:** If the animals to be vaccinated are not well restrained the vaccine dose may be given in the wrong place or missed altogether leading to a poor immune response or even vaccine failure.
10. **Marking:** Finally, even with the best handling system escapes can happen so it is good to get into the habit of marking every animal as it is vaccinated so that escapes can be caught and dosed correctly. A simple coloured spray mark is sufficient.



If you are unsure about how to use a vaccine the pack insert will give you a lot of information. The vets at Farm First Vets will be very happy to advise on appropriate vaccines for animals under our care.

## FORTHCOMING NADIS MEETINGS

Thursday 12th October – Lambs Post Weaning Performance

Thursday 26th October- Cattle Parasites

Thursday 9th November – Sheep Parasites

Thursday 23rd November- BVD

Thursday 7th December – Cattle Youngstock Part 1 (calving).

You must be registered with Farming Connect. To book your free place or for further details please contact the office.

All meetings  
will all be held at  
Monmouthshire Livestock  
Market NP15 2BH  
at 7pm, with a hot  
meal provided.